b) <u>In the Claims</u>

Kindly amend claim 1 as follows.

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic toner comprising magnetic toner particles each comprising at least a monoazo iron compound, an aluminum compound of an aromatic hydroxyl carboxylic acid, a binder resin and a magnetic iron oxide, wherein:

the magnetic toner has a saturation magnetization σ s being in the range of 5 to 60 Am²/kg and a remanent magnetization σ r being in the range of 0.1 to 10.0 Am²/kg in a measured magnetic field of 795.8 kA/m;

the binder resin contains a polyester component polymerized by using a Ti chelate compound having a ligand selected from the group consisting of a diol, a dicarboxylic acid, and an oxycarboxylic acid as a catalyst; and the Ti chelate compound is represented by any one of the following formulae (I) to (IV) and hydrates thereof:

Formula (I)

in the formula (I), R_1 denotes one of an alkylene group or an alkenylene group each having 2 to 10 carbon atoms and may have a substituent, M denotes a countercation, m denotes a cation number, n denotes a cation valence, n=2 when m=1, n=1 when m=2, and M denotes one of a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion, or an organic ammonium ion when n=1, or denotes an alkali earth metal ion when n=2;

Formula (II)

$$\begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\
C & 0 & C & R_2 & R_2 \\
C & 0 & 0 & C & R_2 & M^{n+} \\
C & 0 & 0 & C & M^{n+} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}$$

in the formula (II), R_2 denotes one of an alkylene group or an alkenylene group each having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may have a substituent, M denotes a countercation, m denotes a cation number, n denotes a cation valence, n=2 when m=1, n=1 when m=2, and M denotes one of a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion, or an organic ammonium ion when n=1, or denotes an alkali earth metal ion when n=2;

Formula (III)

$$\begin{pmatrix} & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\$$

in the formula (III), M denotes a countercation, m denotes a cation number, n denotes a cation valence, n=2 when m=1, n=1 when m=2, and M denotes one of a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion, or an organic ammonium ion when n=1, or denotes an alkali earth metal ion when n=2;

Formula (IV)

in the formula (IV), R₃ denotes one of an alkylene group or an alkenylene group each having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may have a substituent, M denotes a countercation, m denotes a cation number, n denotes a cation valence, n=2 when m=1, n=1 when m=2, and M denotes one of a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion, or an organic ammonium ion when n=1, or denotes an alkali earth metal ion when n=2, wherein the polyester component comprises a compound having a structure containing oxyalkylene ether of a novolak phenolic resin as an alcohol component; and wherein the metal compound of an aromatic hydroxyl carboxylic acid is represented by the following formula (13):

Formula (13)

wherein M represents aluminum; (B) represents (I) a group of the following structure:

which may contain a substituent, wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, or a nitro group; or (ii)

wherein, R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 18 carbon atoms,

 A'^+ represents hydrogen, a sodium ion, a potassium ion, an ammonium ion, or an aliphatic ammonium ion and Z represents -O- or -C(=O)-O-.

- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Cancelled)
- 4. (Original) A magnetic toner according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic iron oxide comprises 0.1 to 2.0% by mass of an Si element.

- 5. (Original) A magnetic toner according to claim 1, further comprising hydrophobic silica treated with hexamethyldisilazane and with silicone oil.
- 6. (Previously Presented) A magnetic toner according to claim 1, wherein an average circularity of the magnetic toner particles of the magnetic toner which have equivalent circle diameters of 3 μm or more and 400 μm or less measured with a flow particle image analyzer, is 0.930 or more and less than 0.970.
 - 7. (Cancelled)
 - 8. (Cancelled)
 - 9. (Cancelled)
- 10. (Previously Presented) A magnetic toner according to claim 1, wherein the Ti chelate compound is represented by the formula (I).
- 11. (Previously Presented) A magnetic toner according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin contains a polyester component polymerized by using Ti chelate compounds (1) and (2) together thereof:

Ti chelate compound (1)

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{2}C & O & O & CH_{2} \\ H_{2}C & O & CH_{2} \end{pmatrix} \cdot 2K^{+}$$

Ti chelate compound (2)

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_{2}C & O & O & CH_{2} \\ H_{2}C & Ti^{2+} & CH_{2} \\ H_{2}C & O & CH_{2} \end{pmatrix}^{2-} \cdot 2K^{+}$$

12. (Cancelled)